

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00964 161139Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00

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P R 161036Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9591

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0964

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, EEWT, BU, LE

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ABBOTT LABORATORIES EMPLOYEE

REFS: A) STATE 113669; B) STATE 107987; C) BEIRUT 6000;

D) SOFIA 0906

1. EMBOFF RAISED ABBOTT CASE WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE ON MAY 5 FROM STANDPOINT OF POSSIBLE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON BUSINESS RELATIONS. SEE REFTEL (D).

2. ABBOTT EXECUTIVE CARL A. SHELDON TOLD EMBOFF HE MADE VERY CLEAR TO PHARMACHIM REPRESENTATIVE ON APRIL 28, 1975 THAT UNLESS BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES COULD FORMALLY CHARGE AND TRY MR. ISPENTCHIAN ON LEGITIMATE CHARGES, ABBOTT LABORATORIES WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER TREATMENT AS HARASSMENT AND WOULD HAVE TO CAREFULLY RECONSIDER CONTRACT AND FUTURE BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH BULGARIA. SEE REFTEL (D).

3. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT MR. ISPENTCHIAN IS LEBANESE CITIZEN, WE FEEL THAT REPRESENTATION BY GOVT OF LEBANON IS BY FAR MOST APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PROTECTING HIS INTERESTS. SEE REFTEL (C).

4. FOR THESE REASONS WE HAVE NOT AGAIN RAISED MATTER WITH BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

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Message Attributes

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